Deaths due to tobacco related diseases

555. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of deaths caused due to tobacco related diseases every year in the country;

(b) whether Government have ever conducted any inquiry into such deaths to find out the cause of disease; and

(c) whether any record with regard to identify intoxicants like alcohol, cigarette, tobacco, or any other substance, which causes maximum deaths is maintained?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) According to a study conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), about 8,00,000 persons in Indian die every year due to their tobacco habit.

Periodic surveys undertaken by bodies like National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) and specific surveys conducted by National Family Health Survey provide information on prevalence and consumption patterns of intoxicants like alcohol and tobacco.

Eradication of leprosy

556. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set any target for the eradication of leprosy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures adopted to achieve the above objectives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) In conformity with the WHO global strategy, the Government of Indian has set a target for elimination of leprosy which means bringing down the prevalence rate of leprosy to less than one case per 10,000 population at the National level by the end of the year 2004-05.

(c) National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) is a 100% Centrally sponsored scheme with the objective of achieving elimination of leprosy *i.e.* Prevalence of less than 1 case per 10,000 population at National Level by the end of the year 2004-05.

The measures adopted under the Programme are :

(i) Decentralization & Institutional Development under which State Leprosy Societies have been formed in 27 major States and District Leprosy Societies in all the districts in the country.
(ii) Integration of leprosy services with General Health Care system in the country.
(iii) Two rounds of Modified Leprosy Elimination Campaigns for case detection throughout the country during 2001-02 and 2002-03.
(iv) Early Leprosy Case Detection and Free Multi Drug Therapy to all patients through all Government Primary Health Centres, dispensaries and Hospitals in the country.
(v) Special Action Projects for Elimination of Leprosy (SAPEL) and Leprosy Elimination Campaign (LEC) for difficult/inaccessible/ under served Rural & Urban areas, respectively.
(vi) Intensified Public Awareness Campaigns.
(vii) Training of health staff in disability prevention and care.
(viii) Training of General Health Care Staff in Leprosy.

Lack of basic facilities in health care centres in Orissa

557. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the health care centres in rural areas in Orissa lack basic facilities for patients and the cash-starved State finds it difficult to improve these services in these areas, as reported in the New Indian Express, Bhubaneswar, dated the 22nd November, 2002;

(b) if so, the help rendered by Government to the State to overcome this handicap;